

Minutes of...Meeting to Discuss Policy Council

Details

Date: February 28, 2007

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor, Citrus Room, San Bernardino

Attendees

- Charles Adams, Community Action Partnership
 - Rick Arden, Probation Department
 - DeAnna Avey-Motikeit, Department of Children's Services
 - Sandra Baxter, County Counsel
 - Cathy Cimbalo, Department of Children's Services
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Chris Gardner, Public Defender
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Margaret Hill, County Superintendent of Schools
 - Richard Jarvis, First 5 San Bernardino
 - Steve Kovensky, Fontana Sheriff's Department
 - Dave Larsen, Community Development & Housing
 - Honorable James McGuire, Juvenile Court
 - Kent Paxton, Children's Network
 - Allan Rawland, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Sue Taylor, Children's Network
 - David Zook, 1st District Board of Supervisors
 - Margaret Smith, Public Health
 - Gloria Affatati, PERC
 - Crystal Miller, Children's Network
 - Kathy Watkins, Human Services Legislation and Research
 - Richard Burgess, DBH TAY
 - Gary Atkins, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Michelle Dusick, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Approval of previous minutes

Judge McGuire welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. One addition was requested for the agenda, Sue Taylor to speak on Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. A motion was made to approve the agenda as it was submitted with the one addition. A motion was made to approve the January 24, 2007 minutes as they were submitted.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Welcome and Introductions	McGuire
Approval of Agenda	McGuire
Approval of January 2007 Minutes	McGuire
Special Presentations: Recognition of Sandra Baxter and Cathy Cimbalo	Paxton
Children's Fund Report	Stafford
Healthy Communities	Baltazar
Alcohol and Drug Prevention Plan for Youth	Atkins
Child Abuse Prevention	Taylor
Foster Care Recommendations A) and B)	Rawland/Paxton/Watkins
Other	All
Public Comment	

Key points:

Special

Presentations:

The following highlights were given:

- Judge McGuire mentioned that at his short time as Presiding Judge at Juvenile Court it has been a wonderful experience to work with both Sandie Baxter and Cathy Cimbalo. He thanked them for their wonderful contributions and incredible job.
- Kent presented Sandie Baxter with her recognition award. Sandie mentioned she might come back on contract depending on the budget as she enjoyed the last eighteen years working with the Juvenile Court.
- Kent presented Cathy Cimbalo with her recognition award. Cathy stated she has worked for the County for 32 years.
- Kent encouraged everyone to come to Children's Network Shine the Light on Child Abuse Awards Breakfast on March 22nd at 7:30 a.m., as Cathy will be honored as a lifetime advocate.
- Judge McGuire welcomed David Zook from the Board of Supervisors, First District. It is great to have representation from the Board of Supervisors for this meeting.

**Key points:
Children's
Fund Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Rebecca Stafford reported she and some of the Board met with Dr. Carnig of Cal State University San Bernardino. Through this program foster youth are being targeted that are entering a four-year curriculum. A mentor, (Tristan) is working with the students. As of this point 36 foster youth have applied, with 18 from this County being referred through the Department of Children's Services. Rebecca mentioned that Children's Fund Board is interested in assisting with scholarships.
 - Rebecca stated she was given the idea for the project from Cathy. Cathy stated the project in Orange County, Orangewood works with Cal State University Fullerton.
 - It appears that the program will fit this county and will assist foster youth transitioning out of foster care.
 - Allan Rawland mentioned that Stephen Morales was a former foster youth of this County and is now employed by the Department of Behavioral Health. He reported Stephen is in his sophomore year and is majoring in design and Social Work. Allan stated his department is flexible with Stephen so he can attend college.
 - Dr. Hill shared a news article featuring Stephen Morales.
 - Richard Burgess was also present. He is an employee of the Department of Behavioral Health, TAY (Transitional Age Youth) Program. Richard plans on going to college to be an Attorney then a longer-range goal of Judge.
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**Key points:
Healthy
Communities**

The following highlights were given:

- Angelica Baltazar and Evelyn Trevino were introduced from the Public Health Department, Healthy Communities.
 - Angelica mentioned that the work being done is through an initiative with a focus on the community and to reduce health disparities in the community such as obesity.
 - They distributed some materials on the Healthy Communities Program as well as two fitness events, (Saturday, March 3rd Community Walk in Fontana and the Kids Fitness Challenge on Saturday, April 28th in Fontana.
 - Angelica mentioned they are working with the community, schools, and businesses for the Healthy Communities Program.
 - Evelyn mentioned the data reflects for this county; has the highest heart disease death rate, they are looking at access to healthy food options, etc.
 - It was mentioned that the City of Chino has a walking club so they can focus on a Healthy Chino. In the City they are focusing on how get the community more active, by revitalizing the community.
 - Chino is considered one of the top communities to raise children.
 - There was some discussion about the Kids Fitness Challenge on April 28th. It is a free event at the California Speedway in Fontana. There will be lot of other agencies participating and is a free for families. They are trying to get Michael Jordan to be the pace runner.
 - Kent mentioned that there are 580,000 children residing in this county. Many of those children, do not have health insurance (approximately 60,000). Kent stated that we have been collaborating with IEHP (Inland Empire Health Plan), and staff from other county agencies working on a solution to the problem.
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**Key points:
Alcohol and
Drug
Prevention Plan
for Youth**

The following highlights were given:

- Gary Atkins and Michelle Dusick were introduced from the Department of Behavioral Health.
- A power point presentation was distributed with more details.
- Kent mentioned it has been a long wait to have comprehensive mental health program for youth in this county.
- Michelle mentioned that through the needs assessment the three most popular drugs and alcohol used by teens is methamphetamine, alcohol, and marijuana. She mentioned that heroin is not far behind.
- Three new RFPs (Request For Proposals) went out recently for; services at Dependency Drug Court, community-based prevention services, and community recovery centers.
- Gary mentioned that some funds have been set aside for detox beds for teens. The detox beds would be based on the State Model. The beds would be used for acute care and chronic care needs. Some evidence approached treatment models are being looked at. The age group for these beds is 18 to 25.
- Gary stated they are looking to work with partners and the community to make sure what is developed can have measurable outcomes.
- The evidence-based model will need to be sustainable.
- Michelle mentioned they are looking at the most cost effective way for substance abuse prevention programs. The starting point they used is the Board of Supervisors Mission Statement. The services to be provided had to be tied into the DBH Mission Statement.
- Michelle stated through the Needs Assessment they were able to determine for prevention efforts the focus should be on reduction of marijuana use as it appears to be used more then tobacco.
- There are plans to fund activities around regional collaboratives. The non-profits would be able to work with law enforcement, businesses, and others wanting to partner in the process.
- An example given was the work in the Phoenix area. A project such as Operation Phoenix was mentioned where they used the shoulder tap method to see if youth could go in liquor stores to purchase alcohol.
- Gary mentioned that they did not want to re-invent the wheel so he surveyed some other counties. He gave the example of the youth in San Diego in the Youth Council got the issue of no smoking on the beach passed.
- Kent stated that County Superintendent of Schools has a drug prevention program they collaborate. Perhaps, Margaret Hill could share the membership list.
- Kent spoke about a survey that was conducted with 330 youth at Juvenile Hall in August 2002, 88% of the youth had multiple drug use. There was further discussion about youth getting treatment at Juvenile Hall.
- Questions and answers: Contact information for Gary Atkins (909) 421-9405.

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- Allan Rawland mentioned that he loves to hear his staff talk about their programs with such enthusiasm, especially when it is about prevention. He stated we couldn't forget co-occurring disorders, abuse problems, and self-medication issues.
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**Key points:
Child Abuse
Prevention**

The following highlights were given:

- Sue Taylor reported that April is Child Abuse Prevention month. The theme this year is it Only Takes A Minute; this is the third year for that campaign.
 - Sue stated there are a lot of new child abuse prevention materials (posters, book marks, wrist bands, magnets, etc.) that Children's Network is able to **purchase** the state and give away at no cost, so please contact the office for materials at (909) 387-8966.
 - The Child Abuse Prevention Resolution will go before the Board of Supervisors for adoption at the March 20th meeting.
 - Last year was able to get all 24 cities in the county to adopt a proclamation for child abuse prevention and safe summer.
 - The Annual Shine the Light on Child Abuse Awards breakfast is on March 22nd at 7:30 a.m. at the Ontario, Double Tree. This event is the kickoff for child abuse prevention.
 - It was mentioned that Cathy Cimbalo would be honored as the lifetime advocate, so please purchase your tickets for \$10 and celebrate with Cathy.
 - Sue said thanks to Ron Griffin, he was able to secure a head start class to come and sing at the Breakfast.
 - Sue stated a thanks needs to go to the Public Health Department for assistance with the power point presentation to be shown the breakfast.
 - It was mentioned that recently a press conference was held with Richard Jarvis of First 5, Supervisor Josie Gonzales, and Kent.
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**Key points:
Foster Care
Recommendations**

The following highlights were given:

A) Approval Requested to Approve Foster Care Committee Work plan for 2007.

- Kent introduced Gloria Affatati of PERC. She was thanked for the excellent job facilitating the Foster Care Summit event on November 20th. Gloria continues to help facilitate the next steps of the plan.
- Everyone was directed to look at his/her agenda packet that includes; the Foster Care Youth Summit Recommended Next Steps and a survey to be taken.
- From the Foster Care Youth Summit the committee developed the priorities. There were thirty-three recommendations covering the areas of; local control, department control, state control, and federal control by short term and long-term initiatives.
- Gloria stated that some of the recommendations could be handled through legislation.
- It was mentioned that the top two priorities would be focused on from the survey results.
- This committee is linked to Policy Council and has been asked to fill out the survey.
- **It was recommended that both documents be shared with; Policy Council members, of course the Foster Care Summit, and the 200 participants from the Foster Care Youth Summit. A motion was made for distribution of both items to; Policy Council members, Foster Care Summit members, and the 200 participants from the Foster Care Youth Summit.**
- **There will be a report brought back to this group on the priorities that were selected.**
- Richard Burgess was introduced. Richard chairs the Transitional Aged Youth Council.
- Richard has been involved with the Youth Advisory Council for the past 2-½ years.
- Richard stated they have a mission statement and bylaws. They are in the process of getting a California Youth Connection chapter for this county. **Kent has been asked on behalf of Children's Network to be a sponsor in the process. He agreed to assist in the process and give direction on policy development.**
- Richard stated there is an event at the capitol the youth get to go for Capital Day to meet legislators and review some bills. The California Youth Connection sponsors this activity.
- Richard stated that there are seven youth on the board with five adult advisors.
- Allan mentioned he had a contact at CYC (California Youth Connection) he is trying to contact.
- It was mentioned that the CYC chapters in the state are very independent and are directed by foster youth.

- **A motion was made for Kent to serve in a mentorship role to assist Richard and Stephen with the CYC efforts.**

B) Host County Group Home Support Letter Legislation

- Kathy Watkins was introduced. She directed everyone to look at the handouts on; AB 1130, AB 1453, SB 710, AB 411 and the report (Data on Percent of Child Welfare Supervised Foster Children under Parental/Court Ordered Consent for Psychotropic Medications).
- Kathy mentioned that last Friday was the last day for bills to be introduced to the legislators.
- SB 1453 deals with foster care youth placements in-group homes. It specifically looks at residential setting. The purpose is to have some transformation of beds for integration into the community. She mentioned that there would probably be restructuring of funds for development of alternative placements.
- Allan mentioned there has been some discussion and policy strategy around the group home residential system of care. He suggests the county do more writing and reviewing the Group Home System of Care.
- DeAnna Avey-Motikeit mentioned there are fiscal aspects of the waiver. She stated the increased in funding is similar to Wraparound Services. It was stated the cost is \$6,000 per child.
- Allan stated there has been a decrease in-group home placement. He stated that a Level 14 Group Home bed could cost \$10,000 a month per child depending on the child's needs.
- Allan stated with the mental health patches care is very expensive, so alternative placements are being looked at for the foster care youth.
- DeAnna spoke about best practices in group homes and funding issues. She stated that in September or October it was recommended for counties interested to do a fiscal analysis for families in re-unification.
- SB 710 deals with support letters for group homes. The primary placement county is responsible for writing a Support Letter for group homes.
- There was further discussion about other counties opening group homes in this county.
- Kent mentioned that back in 1999 there was a discussion with Supervisor Hansberger regarding quality control of group homes in this county.
- AB 411 deals with the review of residential facilities and the overconcentration of facilities with six or more beds. Kathy stated the county has a program for geomapping of the facilities.
- Kathy shared information on the number of foster care children who receive psychotropic medications in placements. She stated there were two bills that applied to this issue such as AB 1330 and AB 1514. These bills were proposed by the Children's Law Center. AB1330 deals with mandate data collection on children with psychotropic medications.
- Kathy mentioned in this county through the Dependency Court, the PHNs (Public Health Nurses) record in the health passport the medications the foster children are given by court orders. She stated thanks go to the PHNs for the accurate data collection.

Kathy mentioned she is working in a workgroup that is looking at this issue for purposes of a Statewide System Improvement Plan.

- The AB 1514 deals with court order mandate for dependents of the court on psychotropic medications authorized by Judicial Court Officer.

Key points:
Other

The following highlights were given:

- Kent mentioned he will presenting an informative power point presentation on Monday evening, March 5th. He encouraged everyone to come and thanked the group for their continued efforts for Operation Phoenix.
- Allan stated the process would begin soon for planning the funds for children's programs. DBH, (Department of Behavioral Health) will be getting funding for intervention and prevention programs. **He asked the group if anyone was interested, to please get in touch with him to get included in the planning process.**
- Allan also spoke about his involvement in the Survey on Homeless and that he got to participate. He spoke about the poverty and how incredible it was to see families wanting to participate for purposes of funding.
- **Judge McGuire asked Rick Arden to coordinate with Michelle Scray by adding Kathy Watkins to group for meetings on Psychotropic medications.**
- Dave Larsen mentioned he got a copy of Children's Network Annual Report and was very impressed with it.

Next Meeting

March 28, 2007 at noon, Citrus Room 5th Floor, County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.